

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 03594 072121Z
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 INR-07 IO-13 MED-02 NSAE-00
PA-01 DHA-02 SCA-01 OES-07 USIA-06 PRS-01 CIAE-00
HEW-04 DODE-00 SCS-03 EB-07 IGA-02 /126 W
-----092446 072135Z /73

P R 071904Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6128
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3594

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SWEL, AMED, JM
SUBJECT: JAMAICA DENGUE FEVER EPIDEMIC: UPDATE

REFERENCE: A. KINGSTON 3538 B. KINGSTON 3457 C. KINGSTON 3382
D. KINGSTON 3352

PASS AID FOR FOREIGN DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR

1. REFTELS DESCRIBE JAMAICA'S DENGUE FEVER EPIDEMIC AND ON-
AGAIN OFF-AGAIN GOJ REQUESTS FOR USG ASSISTANCE.
2. RESIDENT PAHO REPRESENTATIVE RODRIQUEZ TOLD CHARGE EVENING
JULY 5 THAT EPIDEMIC IS REACHING DISASTER PROPORTIONS AND THAT
GOJ MINISTRY OF HEALTH SEEMS TOTALLY INCAPABLE OF DEALING WITH
THE SITUATION. AT THIS POINT, HE CLAIMED, THERE IS ONLY A
TWO-THREE DAY SUPPLY OF 96 PERCENT MALATHION REMAINING ON ISLAND
ALTHOUGH EPIDEMIC CONTINUES TO SPREAD. HE SAID THAT A PAHO
SAMPLE SURVEY OF SCHOOLS, FACTORIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS
AROUND THE ISLAND THIS PAST WEEK INDICATES THAT 20 -
25 PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION HAS EITHER HAD OR DOES HAVE
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DENGUE FEVER, AND THAT RATE IS INCREASING. HE ALSO
REMARKED THAT THIS PARTICULAR DENGUE FEVER VIRUS IS
NEW TO THE CARIBBEAN AND HAS ALREADY CAUSED AT LEAST
SIX DEATHS.

3. WE HAVE ON A DAILY BASIS ADVISED SENIOR MINISTRY
OF HEALTH OFFICIALS, FOREIGN MINISTRY PERMSEC FRANK

FRANCIS, AND PRIME MINISTER'S PERMSEC GORDON WELLS OF OUR OWN CONCERN. GOJ ALSO WELL AWARE OUR WILLINGNESS PROVIDE DISASTER RELIEF IF SUCH SHOULD BE NECESSARY. HOWEVER, GOJ HAS CONSISTENTLY ADVISED THAT IT DOES NOT WANT A DISASTER DECLARED, EITHER PRIVATELY OR PUBLICLY, AND THEREFORE IS UNWILLING TO ACCEPT DISASTER RELIEF.

4. PAHO REP STATES THAT THE MOSQUITO CARRIER (AEDES EGYPTAE) ALSO IS PREVALENT IN U.S. GULF COAST STATES, E.G. LOUISIANA, AND SUGGESTED USG SHOULD BE CONCERNED THAT TOURISTS MAY CARRY DENGUE FEVER BACK TO THAT AREA WITH ALL OF ITS ATTENDANT PROBLEMS.

5. WE ASSUME CDC IN ATLANTA IS CLOSELY MONITORING THE SITUATION THROUGH PAHO AND OTHER CHANNELS BUT SUGGEST THAT THIS BE CONFIRMED BY DEPARTMENT WITH VIEW TO CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR ANY SPREAD OF DENGUE FEVER FROM JAMAICA TO U.S., IF SUCH OCCURS, IT WILL BE A CONSEQUENCE OF WHAT CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS EXTRA-ORDINARILY INEPT AND INCOMPETENT HANDLING OF A SERIOUS HEALTH SITUATION HERE.

DORRANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, EPIDEMICS, DENGUE FEVER
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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